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SUBJECT: UAE STATEMENT ON POTUS 7/16 REMARKS; POTUS CALL TO
UAE PRESIDENT

REF: ABU DHABI 1191

11. On July 18, the UAE's official news agency, WAM, released the following statement:

Begin text.

Khalifa Received Telephone Call From President Bush

President H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan received here (Paris) Wednesday a telephone call from US President George W. Bush.

During the telephone conversation, President Bush briefed Sheikh Khalifa on his initiative to hold an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

President H.H. Sheikh Khalifa thanked the US President for his call and described the initiative of holding a conference as being "a move in the right direction." He went on to call for steps to be taken to activate the initiative so as to reach a settlement that would put a final end to the suffering of the Palestinian people, on the basis of the Arab Peace Initiative. "A just solution to the Palestinian problem is the key to the solution of most of the problems being faced in the Middle East," the President added.

End text.

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